

have been conspicuous. They approached me from the southwest, flying about northeast, and then swung around by the west finally disappearing over the point where I first saw them, after making a circle perhaps a mile in circumference. There is a small river, hardly more than fifty yards in width at the widest, just beyond where I lost sight of them. The nearest pond I know of is three miles away."

Inasmuch as Mr. Frazar is an ornithologist and sportsman of long and varied experience one may accept, without the slightest hesitation, his confident assurance that the birds he observed, under conditions so favorable for field identification, were Snow Geese. It must remain doubtful, however, to which form of this species they belonged, although the probabilities indicate the smaller bird *hyperborea*, that being of commoner occurrence in New England than its larger subspecies, *nivalis*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Another Ohio record for *Oidemia deglandi*.**—Among a number of birds which I recently received from the Ohio State University in exchange for my collection of mammals there is a female of this species (*Oidemia deglandi*), shot March 10, 1881, at the Licking County Reservoir in Ohio. Prof. L. Jones, in his Catalogue, mentions the two specimens recorded by Dr. Wheaton and two specimens in the Oberlin Museum. Dawson and I recorded a fifth specimen shot in 1881 in Sandusky Bay. This present specimen then makes the sixth record for the State of Ohio. As Dawson had the collection of the Ohio State University at his elbow when writing his book, it is certainly peculiar that he should have overlooked this specimen and there may be perhaps other specimens in this collection not yet brought to light.—W. F. HENNINGER, *New Bremen, Ohio.*

**The Masked Duck — A Correction.**—In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXV, No. 4, page 472, will be found a note by me on the capture of a Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) in Chatham Co., Ga., on Oct. 5, 1906. The capture was reported to me by Mr. G. R. Rossignol, Jr. (in whose possession it was) and Prof. W. J. Hoxie, another Savannah ornithologist and I had full faith in the judgment of these gentlemen. However, since writing said note I have visited Savannah and had the pleasure of examining the collections of each and was both surprised and disappointed to find that they were mistaken in this specimen. It is, without doubt, a Lesser Scaup, and they were misled by rust colored stains on its breast and belly.

While these have every appearance of being caused by grease, Prof. Hoxie is now of the opinion that it is from some compound of iron in the water frequented by the bird, as he states that he has since observed it in a less degree on other specimens. I deeply regret that the error was made and my note written.—ISAAC F. ARNOW, *St. Marys, Ga.*

**The Little Blue Heron in New Jersey.**—In glancing over the January issue of 'The Auk,' I noticed Mr. Reginald Heber Howe's note on the occurrence of the Little Blue Heron in New Jersey and the question he raised

as to whether this influx of birds was attributable to excessively hot weather. To this I would say emphatically, no. The Egret, it is true, is now a very rare species in either Pennsylvania or New Jersey but the Little Blue Heron invades both States periodically during late summer. Though personally I have seen but few birds, yet records have come to me with great regularity of their occurrence during the last four years at numerous localities in widely separated parts of New Jersey (barring the mountains), while in Pennsylvania they are even taken occasionally in the Alleghanies. At certain periods in late August they may even be called abundant. It would seem that each year after the breeding season they wander north, usually in flocks, and spend August and the first half of September on northern feeding grounds.—R. C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*

**The Yellow Rail at Salem, New Jersey.**—I have recently secured from a Mr. McKee of Philadelphia a mounted specimen of the Yellow Rail, with full data, which Mr. McKee took at Salem, New Jersey, on October 24, 1908. The bird is an adult female in fine plumage but very poorly prepared. This is the most recent capture of the Yellow Rail in the State and the fourth record for the State.—R. C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*

**The Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*) in the District of Columbia.**—Through the courtesy of Mr. H. M. Darling, of Washington, D. C., the Biological Survey has recently received a specimen of the little Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*), collected on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, September 1, 1908. The specimen is adult, mounted, but with the sex unmarked. At least three earlier records of the occurrence of this species in the District of Columbia have been published. In September, 1861, the bird was reported as seen by Coues and Prentiss.<sup>1</sup> On June 6, 1879, a male (No. 78,384, U. S. National Museum) was collected by Shekells near Washington<sup>2</sup>; and on May 29, 1891, a specimen was taken by R. L. Jones and recorded by E. J. Brown.<sup>3</sup> The specimen collected by Mr. Darling is apparently the third actually captured, and the fourth record for Washington.

The Black Rail has also been taken by John Dowell at Piscataway, Prince George County, Maryland, Sept. 25, 1877 (No. 97,717, U. S. National Museum),<sup>2</sup> and several specimens are said to have been taken on the Patuxent River in Maryland, not far from the northeastern boundary of the District.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Occurrence of the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) off the coast of Nova Scotia.**—In October, 1907, I secured an adult female specimen of this small European Curlew which has an interesting history. On May 23, 1906, it came aboard the steamship 'Bostonian' when she was westward

<sup>1</sup> Avifauna Columbiana, p. 101, 1883.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, Vol. XXIV, p. 209, 1907.

<sup>3</sup> Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. XVI, p. 108, 1891.